

Program Title: **Urgent WASH and shelter support for conflict-affected households in Northern Iraq**

Start Date: Jan 01, 2015 Program Duration: 6 months

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OFDA Baseline Report March 30, 2015

Methodology

The baseline surveys were initially conducted over two weeks at the end of February/beginning of March 2015. Due to some issues with the validity of data (see below section on challenges encountered), a second set of baseline surveys were conducted in mid-March 2015.

A household survey was designed in line with OFDA WASH guidelines, in order to capture baseline information against the 12 pre-determined indicators. However, the survey also included questions to gather extra data for general use.

A statistically representative sample was determined to be 97 households, with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 10%. The total population of the villages sampled was 9,500. A random sampling methodology was used which meant that the number interval for the survey was 9 – every 9th household was surveyed.

A team of assessors was used to undertake the surveys, and a half day training was provided on the survey content and guidelines for carrying out the questionnaire. Assessors then worked in pairs to undertake surveys – one male and one female. The first set of data was collected over a 6 day period.

Due to some challenges being encountered rendering some of the data unreliable, a second set of baseline surveys was conducted in March 2015. A set of 71 new household surveys were collected over the course of 2 days across 4 target villages, using more experienced assessors. The assessors still used a random sampling method across these areas to ensure statistical validity. In order to collect the data quickly, the survey used was stripped down to the indicator-specific questions. In addition, these surveys were processed via tablets using the KoboCollect survey system to reduce data entry and analysis time.

The baselines presented here are a combination of both surveys in order to show a representative sample.

Challenges

As already stated, the first baseline survey team encountered some challenges, and it was decided that the data was not entirely reliable. An example is that upon further analysis and investigation it became apparent that often the female household members have access to a neighbour's latrine, while the men and children practice open defecation. However, when asked the question around latrine access, the household would answer positively, thinking only of the women, not wanting to admit that some family members were not able to access a latrine. There were also issues around some assessors not being able to identify where open defecation was taking place within a community through direct observation. When the WASH PM followed up some visits to verify the data collected it became apparent that not all data had been correctly entered around these particular indicators.

There were also some errors made in manual data entry of the written surveys in the first collection, this was eliminated by using the online surveys the second time. We are confident that the data is now robust and forms a reliable baseline.

Lessons Learned

- Consider conducting assessor training in the field rather than in an office.
- Ensure that assessors understand the survey fully, but also the direct observation that will be required.
- Thorough monitoring of survey data needs to be undertaken throughout the survey period.
- Cluster sampling may be a better method to use in areas where villages are not structured.